

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 23-29 and 31.

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A fiber optic connecting system comprising:
a backplane housing including a plurality of longitudinal receiving cavities wherein each receiving cavity has a frontal opening;
at least one folding door comprising a hinge plate formed integrally with a pair of biasing members to cover the frontal openings of a pair the plurality of receiving cavities, there being an intervening wall between the pair of receiving cavities; and
means for securing the hinge plate adjacent the intervening wall to provide attachment of the folding door to the backplane housing.

9. (Original) A fiber optic connecting system comprising:
a backplane housing including a plurality of longitudinal receiving cavities wherein each receiving cavity has a frontal opening;
at least one folding door comprising a hinge plate formed integrally with a pair of biasing members to cover the frontal openings of a pair of the plurality of receiving cavities, there being an intervening wall between the pair of receiving cavities; and
a connection adapted to secure the hinge plate adjacent the intervening wall to provide attachment of the folding door to the backplane housing.

10. (Original) The fiber optic connecting system of claim 9 wherein the at least one folding door includes at least one latch and the intervening wall has at least one latch seat formed therein, the connection produced by engagement of the latch with the latch seat.

11. (Original) The fiber optic connecting system of claim 8 wherein the pair of biasing members comprise a metallic material.

12. (Original) The fiber optic connecting system of claim 11 wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting of stainless steel alloys and beryllium/copper.

13-29. (Cancelled)

• 30. (Previously presented) A backplane connector assembly for making optical connections through a backplane, the connector assembly comprising:

a backplane housing defining a plurality of linearly stacked receiving cavities through the backplane, the receiving cavities each having a frontal opening along the front surface of the backplane member configured to receive a first optical connector and a rear opening along the back surface of the backplane member configured to receive a second optical connector;

a single-piece integral spring member foldable frontal door at least covering a center portion of the frontal opening; and

a single-piece integral spring member foldable rear door at least covering a center portion of the rear opening;

wherein the doors automatically close when an optical connector member is not placed in the respective opening and automatically fold when a connector member is inserted into the respective opening, wherein the front door and the rear door operate independently from each other, wherein each door comprises a single stamped metal part having a first wing and a second wing and a hinge portion, and wherein each door in two adjoining linearly stacked receiving cavities comprises one of the wings and the hinge portion is attached to a dividing wall between the two adjoining receiving cavities.

31-37. (Cancelled)